

Remarks

Claims 1 and 15 are currently amended. Claims 1-30 remain in the application for consideration. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and forwarding of the application to issuance.

The § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0190176 to Louh (hereinafter "Louh").

Claims 15-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0115480 to Huang (hereinafter "Huang").

The Claims

Claim 1 has been amended, and as amended recites a system comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- an adapter designed to attach to a mobile device, the adapter having one or more electrical contacts to interface with one or more electrical contacts of the mobile device when the adapter is attached to the mobile device *to allow information to be passed between the adapter and the mobile device*, the adapter further having a connector portion that is electrically coupled to the one or more electrical contacts of the adapter; and
- a host device having a connector portion that is a mate to the connector portion of the adapter, wherein the connector portion of the host device has one or more electrical contacts to interface with one or more electrical contacts of the connector portion of the adapter when the adapter and host device are connected using the connector portions of the adapter and host device;

- wherein the adapter is designed to remain continually attached to the mobile device, including when the adapter is not attached to the host device.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Louh anticipates claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the electrical contacts of the adapter that interface with the electrical contacts of the mobile device *allow information to be passed between the adapter and the mobile device*. In light of this amendment, and for reasons discussed below, this claim is allowable.

In order to assist the Office in better understanding the amendment made by Applicant, an excerpt from Applicant's specification is reproduced below:

Applicant's Specification, Page 6, Lines 1-24 (emphasis added)

Mobile device adapter 114 includes a mobile device electrical interface 152 and an adapter connector 154. Mobile device electrical interface 152 *allows the electrical contacts of the mobile device (not shown) to be in contact with adapter 114*. Adapter 114 is designed so that interface 152 is configured in such a way as to allow contact with whatever electrical contacts are exposed by the mobile device.

Adapter connector 154 allows mobile device adapter 114 to be connected to a host connector 156 of host device 150. Adapter connector 154 is in electrical communication with mobile device electrical interface 152. For example, adapter 114 may include one or more wires that connect interface 152 to connector 154.

Once connected to host connector 156, adapter connector 154 and host connector 156 are physically coupled to one another *and also electrically coupled to one another. This coupling of adapter 114 and host device 150 thus allows electrical signals to be communicated between host device 150 and mobile device adapter 114*. Further, as mobile device electrical interface 152 is in electrical communication with the mobile device, this coupling of adapter 114 and host device 150 *further allows electrical signals to be communicated between host device 150 and the mobile device*. The physical coupling of host connector 156 and adapter connector 154 allows adapter 114 (and thus the mobile device) to be securely held in the environment where host connector 156 is located. For

1 example, the mobile device can be securely held in a vehicle while the
2 vehicle is moving so that the device does not fall or drop.

3 *The ability to communicate electrical signals between the mobile*
4 *device and host device 150 allows data and/or instructions to be*
5 *communicated between the mobile device and host device 150.* Host
6 device 150 itself may include additional functionality that is made available
7 to the mobile device, or alternatively that avails itself of data and/or
8 functionality of the mobile device. For example, host device 150 may be a
9 stereo that can retrieve song files (e.g., in the WMA or MP3 formats) from
10 the mobile device and play the songs through speakers of host device 150.
11 Alternatively, host device 150 may simply be a conduit for communicating
12 signals between the mobile device and another device. For example, host
13 device 150 may be an adapter for a car that routes signals received from the
14 mobile device to a car stereo, and routes signals received from the car
15 stereo to the mobile device.

16 As should be apparent to the Office after reading the excerpt above, the
17 electrical contacts of the adapter that interface with the electrical contacts of the
18 mobile device *allows information to be passed between the adapter and the*
19 *mobile device.*

20 Louh, on the other hand, does not disclose or suggest that information can
21 be passed between the mobile hand free holder and a mobile phone. Louh teaches
22 that in the prior art, mobile phone holders had an electrical socket that attached to
23 a mobile phone to provide power to the mobile phone. Providing power to a
24 mobile phone is not the same as having electrical contacts of the adapter that
25 interface with the electrical contacts of the mobile device to *allow information to*
be passed between the adapter and the mobile device.

26 Louh further teaches the use of an "audio clip" that "has a *bowl suitable to*
27 *cover the speaker of the mobile phone* and a microphone securely mounted inside
28 the bowl and electrically connected with the circuitry inside the base such that an
29 *audio signal picked up by the microphone* is able to be selectively output by the

1 speaker of the base or the speaker of the car.” (Louh, paragraph 25). This audio
2 clip cannot be said to have to have electrical contacts that interface with one or
3 more electrical contacts of the mobile device when the adapter is attached to the
4 mobile device *to allow information to be passed between the adapter and the*
5 *mobile device*. Rather, the clip uses a microphone to pick up audio signals coming
6 from the mobile phone. Therefore, the audio clip has no electrical contact
7 whatsoever with the mobile phone.

8 For all the reasons mentioned above, this claim is allowable.

9 **Claims 2** depends from claim 1 and is allowable as depending from an
10 allowable base claim. Claim 2 is also allowable for its own recited features, which
11 in combination with those recited in claim 1, are neither disclosed nor suggested
12 by Louh. Furthermore, Applicant notes that nowhere in the Office Action does the
13 Office argue that any reference anticipates “a system as recited in claim 1, wherein
14 the adapter comprises a glove.” Applicant submits that this is because none of the
15 references of record teach that the adapter can comprise a glove. Accordingly, this
16 claim is allowable.

17 **Claims 3-14** depend from claim 1 and are allowable as depending from an
18 allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
19 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 1, are neither disclosed
20 nor suggested by Louh.

21 **Claim 15** has been amended, and as amended recites an apparatus
22 comprising [added language appears in bold italics]:

- 23
- 24 • a first interface designed to be in communication with an interface of
 - 25 a mobile device when the apparatus is attached to the mobile device;
 - and

- a single connector, coupled to the first interface, to allow the apparatus to be physically attached to and securely held by a plurality of different *types of* host devices, wherein the connector includes a second interface to place the first interface in communication with an interface of one of the plurality of host devices when the apparatus is physically attached to a host device.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Huang anticipates claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the apparatus can be physically attached to and securely held by a plurality of different *types of* host devices. In light of this amendment, this claim is allowable.

In order to assist the Office in better understanding the significance of the amendment made by Applicant, an excerpt from Applicant's specification is reproduced below:

Applicant's Specification, Page 3, Lines 5-16 (emphasis added)

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating example host devices in different environments in which a mobile device may be used. Fig. 1 illustrates multiple (*m*) mobile devices 102 and *multiple (n) host devices 104, 106, and 108 to which devices 102 can be attached*. Host devices 104 and 106 are both in the home environment 110 and may be, for example, a *home entertainment system* (e.g., a radio, clock radio, stereo, television, audio and/or video recording and/or playback devices, etc.), a *personal computer*, a *telephone*, an *article of clothing* (e.g., a belt, armband, coat, etc.), an *automation and/or security system*, a *refrigeration appliance* (e.g., refrigerator, freezer, refrigerator/freezer combination, etc.), an oven or range, and so forth. Host device 108 is in the vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, bicycle, recreational vehicle, boat, airplane, etc.) environment 112 and may be, for example, a *vehicle stereo, entertainment system, or navigation system*.

As should be apparent from the excerpt above, the apparatus of claim 15 can be physically attached to and securely held by a plurality of different *types of*

1 host devices, such as a home entertainment system, a personal computer, or a
2 telephone.

3 The Office argues that the cellular telephone connector (33) depicted in
4 Figure 3 of Huang anticipates the apparatus of claim 15. It is Applicant's belief
5 that the Office believes that the cellular telephone connector anticipates claim 15
6 because it can be connected to a base (31) and a cellular telephone (55).
7 Accordingly, the Office believes that the base, in this case, could be characterized
8 as a host device. Therefore, assuming *arguendo* that the base can be characterized
9 as a host device, it nevertheless is clear to Applicant that the cellular telephone
10 connector is only designed to connect to one type of host device: the base of a cell
11 phone charger. Therefore, Huang does not anticipate claim 15 for at least the
12 reason that Huang does not teach or in any way suggest an apparatus that can be
13 physically attached to and securely held by a plurality of different *types of* host
14 devices.

15 For at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

16 **Claims 16-22** depend from claim 15 and are allowable as depending from
17 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
18 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 15, are neither disclosed
19 nor suggested by Huang.

20 **Claim 23** recites an apparatus comprising:

- 21
- 22 • a connector to hold an adapter when the adapter is physically
23 attached to the apparatus, wherein the adapter can be physically
24 attached to a mobile device; and
 - 25 • one or more electrical contacts, situated on the connector and
designed to be electrically coupled to one or more electrical contacts
of the adapter when the adapter is physically attached to the
apparatus;

- wherein the connector is standard across the apparatus and a plurality of additional apparatus that are designed to be used in different environments.

In making out the rejection of claim 23, the Office states “regarding claims 15 and 23, Huang discloses an adapter set comprising.” (Office Action, page 3). The Office then proceeds with its argument by citing to sections of Huang that the Office believes anticipates language from claim 15. The Office concludes its argument without ever mentioning any of the elements of claim 23. Claim 23 contains elements that are not recited in claim 15, and therefore the Office’s rejection of claim 23 is improper.

Nowhere in the Office Action does the Office argue that Huang teaches: an apparatus comprising: a connector to hold an adapter when the adapter is physically attached to the apparatus, wherein the adapter can be physically attached to a mobile device; and one or more electrical contacts, situated on the connector and designed to be electrically coupled to one or more electrical contacts of the adapter when the adapter is physically attached to the apparatus; wherein the connector is standard across the apparatus and a plurality of additional apparatus that are designed to be used in different environments.

Accordingly, without a proper rejection from the Office, Applicant can only guess at how the Office might apply Huang. Nonetheless, Applicant has reviewed Huang and submits that it neither discloses nor anticipates the subject matter of this claim. As such, this claim is allowable.

Claims 24-27 depend from claim 23 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited

1 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 23, are neither disclosed
2 nor suggested by Huang.

3 **Claim 28** recites a system comprising:

- 4
- 5 • means for holding a mobile device, the means for holding having
6 means for electrically interfacing with one or more electrical
7 contacts of the mobile device when the means for holding is holding
8 the mobile device;
- 9 • means for hosting the means for holding; and
- 10 • means for connecting the means for holding and the means for
11 hosting, wherein the means for connecting places the means for
12 holding and the means for hosting in electrical contact with one
13 another, and wherein the means for connecting further securely
14 attaches the means for holding to the means for hosting;
- 15 • wherein the means for connecting is standard across a plurality of
16 means for hosting, and wherein each of the means for hosting is
17 designed to be used in different environments.

18
19 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Huang
20 anticipates claim 28. The Office argues that Huang teaches a means for holding a
21 mobile device, citing to figures 3 and 4 of Huang, and specifically to elements 33,
22 35, and 55. Element 35 is part of the top receptacle of the base of a cell phone
23 charger, element 33 is a cellular telephone connector, and element 55 is a cellular
24 telephone. Next, the Office argues that element 31 in figure 3 teaches a “means for
25 hosting the means for holding.” Element 31 is the base of the charger.
Accordingly, it is clear that the Office believes that the base of the charger can be
interpreted as a means for hosting the means for holding. Therefore, the Office
must also believe that the connector 33 can be interpreted as a means for holding a
mobile device. However, the connector 33 is a very small device that can be
inserted into a cellular phone. Therefore, it simply cannot be said that the

1 connector can *hold a mobile device*. While the base 35 could hold a mobile
2 device, as established above, the base is interpreted by the Office to be the means
3 for hosting the means for holding a mobile device.

4 Huang simply fails to teach a means for hosting the means for holding the
5 mobile device as used in this claim and interpreted in light of Applicant's
6 specification.

7 Accordingly, this claim is allowable.

8 **Claims 29-30** depend from claim 28 and are allowable as depending from
9 an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited
10 features which, in combination with those recited in claim 28, are neither disclosed
11 nor suggested by Huang.

1 **Conclusion**

2 All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant
3 requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith. If the Office's next
4 anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability,
5 Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of advancing
6 prosecution.

7
8 Respectfully submitted,

9
10 Dated: 10/3/06

11 By: 

12 Lance R. Sadler
13 Reg. No. 38,605
14 (509) 324-9256
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25